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Agenda item 8

THE REALIZATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Letter dated 26 August 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

I have the honour to refer to the preliminary working paper on human rights dimension of population transfer submitted by Ms. Claire Palley as an official document of the forty-fourth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/WP.1) and to make the following observations concerning the above-mentioned document.

I would like to point out that the information regarding the Cyprus issue in particular in this document contains some errors and omissions.

This is surprising, since its author should be very close to the Cyprus issue as the adviser for constitutional matters to the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus.

GE.92-13947/0918K (E)

I will not dwell on the irrelevant allegations concerning Turkey in this paper. I would like only to recall that even according to some reliable Greek sources, by the mid-1960s an estimated 500,000 Turkish Cypriots, mostly families which had fled oppression and alien rule, were living in Turkey alone.

On the other hand, Greek and Greek Cypriot sources reveal that Cyprus citizenship was granted to tens of thousands of mainland Greek settlers and other refugees.

An information note based on Greek, Greek Cypriot and other foreign sources on the demographic structure as well as the population movement in Cyprus is annexed herewith.

In order to provide objective information to those interested in the matter, I would request kindly that this letter and the attached information note be submitted as an official document under agenda item 8 to the forty-fourth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

(Signed) Gündüz Aktan
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

I. EMIGRATION OF TURKISH CYPRIOTS FROM CYPRUS (1924-1973)

1. The Greek Cypriot uprisings and campaigns of oppression and horror led thousands of Turkish Cypriots to flee to Turkey and other countries. In particular, the EOKA terror campaign started in 1955 which forced thousands of Turkish Cypriots to leave the island.

   For the period 1924-1960 please see the relevant Cyprus Reports of the British Colonial Office.

2. Between 1924-1927 5,000
   Between 1955-1959 6,759
   in 1960 2,220 Turkish Cypriots left Cyprus.

3. According to some Greek sources by 1960 an estimated 500,000 Turkish Cypriots were living in Turkey alone.

   E. Averoff-Tossizza, Lost Opportunities. p. 83

4. Following the Greek Cypriot attacks between 1963-1974 21,439 Turkish Cypriots were forced to leave Cyprus.

   Please see the report prepared by M. Riesen and A. Müller for the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography, 10 March 1987, para. 55.

II. CHANGING THE DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE OF SOUTHERN CYPRUS (1963-1992)

5. In addition to thousands of mainland Greek military personnel who have been granted citizenship and settled in Cyprus since 1963, tens of thousands of Greek and other foreign nationals are being brought to Southern Cyprus first as workers and then granted citizenship by the Greek Cypriot administration.

   Greek Cypriot dailies :
   Agon 15 December 1989
   Filelefttheros 2 March 1990
   Cyprus Mail 16 March 1990
   Alithia 11 June 1990

6. Between the years 1987-1988 the number of short- and long-term immigrants in Southern Cyprus reached 10,156

   Statistical Abstract (1987-1988) of the Greek Cypriot administration.

7. In 1987 some 700 citizenships were granted by the Greek Cypriot administration

   Greek Cypriot weekly: The Cyprus Weekly, 3 March 1988

8. The number of Lebanese living in Southern Cyprus, based on information given by "sources close to humanitarian organizations" by 1989, was 30,000, approximately 23,000 more than the number given by the Greek Cypriot administration.

   The Cyprus Weekly, 29 September 1989
   Report of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (AS/PR(41)19) dated November 1989, paras.15-17

9. Recently, the Greek Cypriot administration has issued "Cypriot" identity cards to many Arab immigrants as well as to the mainland Greeks and gypsies.

Greek Cypriot daily Alithia, 8 April 1992

III. GREEK CYPRIOT ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE THE DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE OF CYPRUS (1924-1990)

1942-1943

SOURCE

10. In an attempt to change the demographic structure of Cyprus, Greek Cypriots assisted thousands of mainland Greeks to come and settle in Cyprus. In 1942 some 4,800 Greek settlers arrived in Cyprus; by 1943 this number reached 10,350.

British Foreign Office Documents:
FO 371/36723
FO 371/51147
British Colonial Office Documents: C.O. 67.328

1963-1967

11. Between 1963 and 1964 over 20,000 mainland Greek troops and officers illegally entered Cyprus to take part in the attempt to unite the island with Greece.

Andreas Papandreou, Democracy at Gunpoint.

12. According to the report of the United Nations Secretary-General of September 1964, an estimated 5,000 mainland Greek personnel entered the island during the month of July of that year alone.

Report No. S/5950, September 1964, para. 41

13. By 1967 the Greek Cypriot "House of Representative" passed a bill designed to give legal status to the Greek army officers and men serving, hitherto covertly, in the Greek Cypriot National Guard.

Secretary-General's report

14. The following table clearly illustrates how the Greek Cypriot administration is changing the status of the so-called short-term immigrants into long-term immigrants so as to allow them to apply for citizenship at the end of the required period. Currently, the Greek Cypriot administration is in the process of expanding the scope of the law concerning the acquisition of citizenship.

	Newly registered immigrants	Number of immigrants with visas and/or permits extended	New applications
1986	6 626	13 500	6 428
1987	6 539	13 900	6 298
1988	6 687	14 834	7 029
1989	11 646	18 449	9 230

Source: Greek Cypriot daily Alithia, 11 June 1990.

IV. RECENT ATTEMPTS	SOURCE
15. On 15 March 1990, the Greek Cypriot administration issued a note concerning the granting of visas and licences for employment to foreign workers. At the same meeting it was also decided to grant licences for the employment in Cyprus of 1,500 foreign workers, 600 of whom will work in the hotel industry, 500 in the construction sector and 400 in the clothing and footwear industries.	Greek Cypriot dailies: Cyprus Mail, 16 March 1990 Proina Nea, 17 March 1990
16. According to Greek Cypriot press reports, there are 2,000 illegal Arab immigrants currently living in Southern Cyprus.	Agon, 10 June 1991
17. According to some reliable sources the Greek Cypriot administration has issued "Cypriot" identity cards to many Arab immigrants, as well as to mainland Greeks and gypsies.	Alithia, 8 April 1992